

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Parks and Recreation Commission convened in a regular session at 7:01 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13, 2011, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Baxter, Greenberg, Hays,
Mayeda, Ning, and Chairperson Gilbert.

Absent: Commissioner Taniguchi.

Also Present: Senior Business Manager Minter,
Recreation Services Manager Brunette,
Park Services Manager Carson, and
Recreation Specialist Thompson.

MOTION: Commissioner Hays moved to grant an excused absence to Commissioner Taniguchi for the April 13, 2011 Commission meeting. Commissioner Mayeda seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Greenberg led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Mayeda moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Ning seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2011

MOTION: Commissioner Greenberg moved to approve the March 9, 2011 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Mayeda seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous (absent Commissioner Taniguchi).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

Staff regretfully informed Commissioners that Community Services Director Jones was absent from this meeting due to the passing of his mother, Julia Jones.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7A. SEA AIRE GOLF COURSE FEE UPDATE

Senior Business Manager Minter reported that City Council approved Fee Resolution 2011-36 (Attachment A) that sets fees for Sea Aire Golf Course. He stated that the new fees went into effect on March 23, 2011 and that discount coupon books are included in the resolution.

7B. ALTA LOMA PARK BUILDING UPDATE

Senior Business Manager Minter reported that construction is nearing completion on the Alta Loma Park Building Renovation Project and that the building was being painted today. He advised that the project should be complete by the end of April, with the grand re-opening planned for late May 2011.

7C. 2011-2013 CITY BUDGET UPDATE

Senior Business Manager Minter announced budget hearings on June 7 and 14, 2011. He reported that for 2010-11 the City is projecting General Fund revenues to be \$2.5 to \$3.5 million below budget estimates due to the utility tax shortfall and unemployment. He advised that City Council has promised no layoffs or furloughs and Departments are in the process of preparing recommendations for the City Manager.

In response to Commissioner Ning's inquiry about program cutbacks, he explained that the anticipated revenue from fee increases has not been received but that there has been no direction to cut programs yet. He stated that staff is looking for ways to reduce expenses, shift them from the General Fund to enterprise funds, and to determine what the impacts would be. He mentioned that one option being explored is to permanently shut down the registration desk at the Cultural Arts Center.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. PROPOSED BOCCE COURTS AT COLUMBIA PARK

Senior Business Manager Minter presented a proposal from South Bay Bocce Club to build three bocce courts on the former basketball courts at the northeast corner of Columbia Park. He noted that the Club is part of the newly-formed Friends of Torrance Exceptional Athletes and will be raising funds for the project under their umbrella. He stated that staff supports this new facility and are pleased that the Club has offered to provide volunteer support to maintain it.

8B. DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB DONATION

Recreation Services Manager Brunette requested that the Commission accept another generous donation from the Dog Obedience Club of Torrance and recommend that the donation be used for the dog waste bag program. He noted that the grand total of their donations to date is \$35,835.

Responding to Chairperson Gilbert's inquiry, Park Services Manager Carson advised that the dog waste bag program has been very successful at Wilson Park and is being considered for Delthorne Park.

MOTION: Commissioner Hays moved to accept a \$1,000 donation from the Dog Obedience Club of Torrance and to recommend that the donation be used for the dog waste bag program. Commissioner Green seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Taniguchi).

8C. AYSO REGION 15 DONATION

Senior Business Manager Minter was pleased to announce that American Youth Soccer Organization Region 15 has generously donated \$2,370.31 towards the cost of vinyl tile to replace the carpet in the Sur La Brea park building.

Fred Silver, Regional Commissioner for AYSO Region 15, expressed his appreciation and stated that the improvement will be beneficial to all organizations that use the room.

MOTION: Commissioner Ning moved to accept a \$2,370.31 from AYSO Region 15. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Taniguchi).

8D. DEVELOPMENT OF PLAQUE CRITERIA FOR CITY PARKS

Senior Business Manager Minter provided background and reported that the City Council Ad Hoc Naming of Facilities Committee directed staff, through the Parks and Recreation Commission, to bring back criteria for specifications of plaques in City parks to ensure uniformity. He recommended that the Facilities Committee address and develop criteria for plaques as it is currently in the process of developing criteria for adding names at Seaside Heroes Park.

Commissioner Ning expressed concern that this is a potentially sensitive topic for the future and that there needs to be a clearly established policy.

Senior Business Manager Minter pointed out that, whatever policy is determined, it would be for parks only and would need to be approved by City Council.

8E. EXPLORATION OF EXPANDING THE SUMMER CONCERT IN THE PARK EVENT AT COLUMBIA PARK

Senior Business Manager Minter presented a proposal from North Torrance Homeowners Association to expand the August 7, 2011 Concert in the Park at Columbia Park to include a charity fundraising event. He stated that Park Services staff would be responsible for putting up and taking down the stage but the HOA would need to fund additional hours for Park Rangers.

Robert Rudolph, President, North Torrance Homeowners Association, Regina Avenue, discussed the concept for a longer event that includes collaboration with Torrance Artist Guild, coordinating a BBQ with a local non-profit organization, and allowing other musical groups to perform. He noted that the expansion would allow the HOA to gain recognition and increase membership as well as to raise funds for a charity such as Red Cross, Friends of Torrance Exceptional Athletes, or Special Olympics.

Commissioner Ning stated that it was a wonderful concept and recommended fundraising for the Torrance Education Foundation to benefit Torrance schools.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

9A. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Commissioner Mayeda reported that the Facilities Committee met on April 13, 2011 and will need three or four more meetings to establish criteria for inclusion of additional names on the Seaside Heroes Park Memorial Wall.

9B. GRANTS COMMITTEE

Has not met.

9C. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

No report.

9D. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Has not met.

10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

10A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Senior Business Manager Minter noted that the Administrative Services Division Report for March 2011 was included in agenda packets. Referring to Commissioner Baxter's inquiry at the last meeting regarding registration enrollments compared with budgeted projections, he advised that there will be a revised format in future agendas.

Commissioner Hays requested that staff provide the number of spring registrations this year compared to last year.

Recreation Specialist II Thompson was introduced and discussed the increase in facility bookings at City parks and weddings at Miramar Park.

Chairperson Gilbert initiated a discussion about the increase in leash violations and the possibility of having Park Rangers issue citations.

10B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION

Park Services Manager Carson noted that the Park Services Division Report for March 2011 was included in agenda materials. He reported that a eucalyptus tree fell on the picnic shelter at Paradise Park, damaging the block wall and roof. He stated that an arborist determined that the other nearby eucalyptus trees are healthy but that they are considering rebuilding the shelter in another location.

10C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

Recreation Services Manager Brunette noted that the Recreation Services Division Report for March 2011 was included in agenda packets.

Chairperson Gilbert stated that she was impressed with the basketball survey results.

11. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC #2

11A. Commissioner Hays stated that he enjoyed the Pancake Breakfast and commended ATTIC staff.

11B. Commissioner Ning discussed a recent trip to Washington D.C.

11C. Commissioner Greenberg stated that she also enjoyed the Pancake Breakfast and that the food was excellent.

11D. Commissioner Mayeda stated that he attended the first Downtown Torrance Farmers' Market and that it was well attended.

11E. Senior Business Manager Minter announced a Job Fair at Wilson Park on April 14, 2011.

11F. Chairperson Gilbert stated that she also enjoyed the Farmers' Market grand opening and announced that she will be a participant in the Cultural Arts Foundation's fundraiser "Dancing With the South Bay Stars."

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:29 p.m., Commissioner Hays moved to adjourn the meeting in memory Julia Jones, mother of Community Service Director Jones to May 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Ning seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Gilbert so ordered.

Approved as Submitted May 11, 2011 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
